

Chap. 4FORMATION OF POCAHONTAS COUNTY

By the Act of the Virginia Legislature at Richmond assembled in 1821, Pocahontas County was formed of territory detached from the counties of Bath, Pendleton, and Randolph counties, with an area of 904 square miles. Colonel John Baxter of Stony Creek was very active in bringing about the organization of the new county. Two counties were provided for. One to be named Alleghany, the other Pocahontas. The intention was to name the county embracing the crown of the Alleghanie Mountains "Alleghany," the other lower down Pocahontas, but owing to a clerical oversight the names were interchanged. Pocahontas was named for the Indian Princess who saved the life of John Smith.

Information: W. Va. Blue Book.

oOo

## FIRST COURT IN POCAHONTAS COUNTY

March 5, 1822 was a very important day for the county, for it was on that day that the first county court was held at the residence of John Bradshaw at Huntersville. John Bradshaw was the founder of Huntersville, and always took an active part in all its affairs.

John Jordan, William Poage, James Tallman, Robert Gay, John Baxter, George Burner, and Benjamin Tallman were present and handed in their commissions as Justices of the Peace, signed by Thomas Mann Randolph, Governor of Virginia.

Colonel John Baxter administered the oath of office, each member qualified four times. The four oaths were:

To faithfully perform official duties Fidelity to the Commonwealth of Virginia. To support the National Constitution, To oppose duelling.

John Jordan was sworn in as high sheriff, giving \$30,000 bond with Abram



and Isaac McNeel as bondsmen.

Josiah Beard was appointed clerk with \$3,000 bond and Thomas Beard, George Poage and James Tallman, bondsmen.

Johnson Reynolds of Lewisburg was qualified as an attorney for the commonwealth.

Sampson L. Mathews was appointed Surveyor of Lands.

William Hughes - constable for the Levels with \$500 bond, and James Cooper - constable for the upper part of the county.

On the second day of this session of court Jonathan Jordan, son of John Jordan, appointed Deputy Sheriff.

James Callison, William Edmiston, John Hill, John Cochran, Alexander Waddell, John (Little John) McNeill, Robert Moore, Martin Dilley, Benjamin Arbogast, William Sharp, William Hartman and Joseph Walfenberger appointed overseers of roads.

Cyrus Curry from Lexington and Johnston Reynolds of Lewisburg were licensed to practice law as the first two members of the Pocahontas Bar.

Travis W. Perkins licensed to open a hotel.

Huntersville was designated as the county seat.

Information: Price's History and court records).

(The business of the third day was the organization of a state militia, but I do not have my report on that quite completed.)



Feb. 13, 1940

-1-

Nelle Y. McLaughlin  
Marlinton, W. Va.

POCAHONTAS COUNTY.

Chapter 4- Section 4-

Pocahontas County was formed by an act of the General Assembly of Virginia, at Richmond, Feb. 5, 1822, of territory detached from the counties of Bath, Pendleton and Randolph. How the name was assigned to this county is not definitely known. There is no doubt but that it was named for the Indian Princess bearing that name. Thomas Mann Randolph, the Governor of the Commonwealth at the time the act forming the new county was passed, was a direct descendant of Princess Pocahontas, and he may have named the county in honor of his kinswoman. Tradition has it that about the time this county was formed, two counties were provided for; one ; to be named Pocahontas and the other Allegheny. The intention was to name the county embraced in the territory on the top of the mountains "Allegheny" and, the one farther down toward the sea "Pocahontas", but for some reason the names were interchanged.

Justices designated to act; John Jordin, Wm. Poage, Jr. James Tallman, Robert Gay, George Poage, Benjamin Tallman, John Baxter, and George Burner.

They met at the house of John Bradshaw, at Huntersville, March 5, 1822, the day appointed for that purpose.

John Jordin was commissioned by his excellency, Thos. Mann Randolph, Governor of Virginia, as the first sheriff who entered into bond in penalty of \$30,000 with Abraham McNeel and Isaac McNeel as his sureties.

Josiah Beard was appointed Clerk and qualified with



Thomas Beard, George Poage, and James Tallman as his sureties.

Joshua Reynolds was appointed Attorney for the Commonwealth.

Sampson L. Mathews was appointed surveyor.

Robert Gay was appointed Commissioner of Revenue for 1822, and qualified and entered into bond with William Cackley, and John Baxter as sureties.

In 1822 the following persons were recommended to the Governor for appointment for military service.

|                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Benjamin Tallman  | Lieutenant Colonel |
| Wm. Blair         | Major              |
| Boon Tallman      | Captain of Cavalry |
| Andrew G. Mathews | First Lieutenant   |
| Benjamin Wallace  | Second Lieutenant  |

Wm. Arbogast, Henry Herold, Isaac Moore, and Milburn Hughes as Captains of Militia.

Robert Warwick

William Moore

William Young

James Rhea

Lieutenant in Militia

Lieutenant in Militia

Jacob Slaven, James Wanless, Samuel Young, and James Callison, as Ensigns in the Militia.

Abraham McNeel

Appointed Coroner

The first Grand Jury:

Samuel Daugherty, (Foreman)

George Kee

Joseph Friel

James Bridger

John Moroney

John Johnson

James Grimes

Samuel Waugh